



ALEXANDRIA:

TUESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 18, 1859.

SERIOUS DISTURBANCE AT HARPER'S FERRY.—It will be seen by reference to a telegraphic despatch, in another column of this morning's Gazette, that a serious disturbance is reported to have occurred at Harper's Ferry yesterday. The War Department on receipt of information of the disturbance, ordered three companies of troops from Fort Monroe to Harper's Ferry, Col. Robert Lee U. S. A. in command; also, 80 Marines from headquarters at Washington. Lieut. Israel Green in command.

The public will receive with regret the news of the death of Hon. JOHN Y. MASON, our Minister at the Court of France. The Baltimore Sun says, "Mr. Mason died suddenly of apoplexy, an affection of which he had a serious visitation a year or so ago, but had so far recovered as in the meantime to give full attention to the duties of his important mission. He was a native of Virginia, in which State he held high trusts, and was appointed Minister to France by President Pierce, which post he has held ever since. He had previously, under the administration of President Polk, been Secretary of the Navy, succeeding the Hon. George Bancroft, in September, 1846, when that distinguished gentleman resigned the post. During Mr. Mason's sojourn in France, where he had been accompanied by his family, all Americans visiting his capital have testified to his efficient courtesies, while his diplomatic services have generally been regarded as able and befitting a representative of the United States."

The last public position he held in his native State, was as a member of the Convention for framing the new Constitution of the Commonwealth—and over this body he presided with credit to himself, and to the entire satisfaction of his fellow-members.

Lord John Russell has been presented with the freedom of the city of Aberdeen, and in his speech on the occasion he entered upon sundry political questions. In speaking of Italy he took occasion to declare that England would never, under his auspices, enter into the contest unless the rights of the people of Italy to govern themselves without the interference of foreign coercion, were recognised. At the same time he declared his firm belief that neither Austria nor France would use any compulsion with the people of Central Italy.

The Common Council of New York have passed resolutions of condolence and of respect to the memory of the late Senator Broderick, of California, in one of which they declare "that, as observers of Senator Broderick's public and private career in California, and also in the Senate of the United States, we are not unmindful of the frequent and chivalrous manner in which he even at the risk of his life, defended on all occasions, the honor of this city and its citizens."

Major Robert Ellis, formerly of Washington city, was found dead in his bed at New Orleans on the 8th inst. He was engaged with Lopez in Cuba, and received a wound in an engagement that prevented his escape. He was pardoned by General Cancha. When Walker was in such a straight in Nicaragua he attempted to reach him with Col. Lockridge's party, and led the assault on Fort Castillon, where he was struck in the forehead by a Minnie ball, which made the circuit of his head and came out near the spine.

A London letter states that Admiral Hope is generally popular by his own profession for attacking the works at the mouth of the Peiho without sufficient careful reconnaissance. The writer thinks the Admiral's personal courage and fortitude when severely wounded are no compensation for the loss of so many precious lives and grave national consequences that may follow his defeat.

The Republican party will gain three United States Senators by the result of the October elections, viz:—a Senator to be elected in Pennsylvania in place of Mr. Bigler, a Senator in Ohio in place of Mr. Pugh, and one in Minnesota, in place of General Shields. The Senatorial terms of Messrs. Bigler and Pugh close on the 4th March, 1861; that of General Shields has already expired.

Senator Toombs is reported to have paid the Hon. J. J. Crittenden the following high and commendable compliment, in a recent speech at Washington, Georgia: "There is no man in the country more reliable than Crittenden. While he (Mr. Toombs) differed from Mr. Crittenden, there is no man more honest or honorable, or more ready to stand by the rights of the South in the Senate or the battle field."

The iron steamer *Contest* has been recently built at Boston. She is intended to run on the Hoquig river, or on the coast, as a passenger and freighting vessel. Baton capitalists are also building the machinery for a new steamer for the Boston and Philadelphia line; also, two iron steamships, of 1,200 tons, for the Boston and Southern Steamship Company, to run between Boston and Charleston.

The Africa brings news to the effect that the tenders for the British government contracts for beef and pork are all in, and that the 47 bids for the former articles range from 6 to 12 shillings for each cwt. under the American tariff. The Irish pork is tendered at 10 to 12 shillings per cwt. On the latter there is no competition allowed on the part of American packers.

Mr. Rarey has recently completed the instruction of his first batch of English cavalry rough-riders, 20 in number. He pauses at this point, in order that his system may be fairly tested for a few months' experience of these men in their own regiments. Some remarkable cases of cure of roved habits of vice in troop-horses, have been effected by Mr. Rarey.

It is highly probable, from present appearances, that if there were only two Presidential candidates in the field, an Administration Democratic candidate, and a "Republican" candidate, the latter would succeed. Why not conservative men, then, unite, to nominate a National Conservative candidate, and unite to support him when nominated? The best interest of the country are concerned in a change of administrative policy, and the same interests are equally concerned in defeating a mere sectional organization.—The way to do both effectually, is to have a National candidate with Whig principles.

The Lancaster (Ohio) Eagle describes a miniature machine shop which Mr. A. T. Mason, of Basile, made with his pen-knife. The shop is fully equipped and in working order, and formed the recreation work of Mr. M.'s leisure during the past year. It is a complete of a room, a double engine, circular saw, mortising apparatus, &c.; in fact the whole building is filled throughout with machinery, all of which runs by the turning of a single crank.

There is a report that the Princess Alice, of England, Queen Victoria's second daughter, has expressed a wish to turn Roman Catholic, thereby resigning her "royal dowry." The Court papers insinuate that this step is preparatory to an alliance with the young King of Portugal, who has lately lost his wife. While in England a few years since he attracted the attention of the Princess, but religion was the bar, and the affair was suppressed in the bad. But, all this is doubtful.

The annual meeting of the missionary society of the Protestant Episcopal Church was held last week at Richmond, Virginia, Bishop Meade presiding. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. Robert Nelson, missionary to China; Captain S. F. Du Pont, of the United States navy; Bishop Scott, of Oregon; and Bishop Payne, of Africa.

It was stated that a Mr. Black, of Newport, Pa., had died in consequence of an incision made by a rooster with his spurs, in the arteries of the hand, and that he had been previously to the death dapping and growing. The statement was generally doubted, but the Harrisburg Gazette is assured of its truth by a gentleman who was present at the death scene.

The New York Post's correspondent at Rome, writing on September 24th, says:—"The health of the Pope is so far recovered that on the 19th of this month he proceeded to the church of Santa Maria Maggiore, and assisted at the celebration of mass in the Borghese chapel. He is further expected to pass a part of the ensuing month at his palace in Castel Gandolfo."

The will of the late Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, Bar, of Bombay, Parsi merchant, was proved in the Supreme Court by his sons. The whole of his property, real and personal, was sworn on 85 lacs of rupees—£8,500,000.

The Plaquemine (Louisiana) Gazette and Sentinel says that the present sugar crop will fall short 300,000 hds. The cane is both short and small and the stand is not a good one.

Thomas Swann, esq., Mayor of Baltimore, was taken suddenly ill, on Saturday last.—He recovered somewhat on Sunday, but still is quite sick.

Rev. C. B. Dana, of this place, has been appointed by the General Episcopal Convention, a member of the Board of Missions of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

A fire broke out in Baltimore, on Sunday morning last, which destroyed several houses on Lombard and Hanover streets.

The Governor of Pennsylvania has named Thursday, the 24th of November, as a day of Thanksgiving in that State.

Judge Douglas's rejoinder to Judge Black will appear in pamphlet form this week. It will make sixteen pages.

The Next Session of Congress. The New York papers announce that the Associated Press will provide for a telegraphic report as full as formerly of the proceedings of both Houses of Congress during the coming session. The business of the session will probably be of much less interest than usual in many respects, except matters having reference to the presidential succession. It will be a session for small politics and small politicians. The debates cannot be expected to be of a high order, considering their low objects. No subjects will be presented which can require statesmanship, or even much of ordinary legislative ability.

The estimates will be reduced to the lowest figures compatible with the operations of the government, and parties will be most watchful of each other to allow of combinations against the treasury for the prosecution of private interests.

Each of the three or four parties in Congress will be occupied in attempted exposures of the demerits of the others.—The chief object of the administration of the House will be to assault the minority, and a number of investigations will be ordered.

The session will commence with intrigues for the House organization. The Republicans will attempt the election of Mr. Sherman or Mr. Grow as speaker, and the clerkship will give to the nominee of the anti-Leocompton democrats, upon the condition that they support the republican nominee for the speakership.

What effect the removal of desks from the House will have upon the proceedings of the House is a matter for experiment. Two consequences may, however, be predicted, to wit: the shortening of the daily sittings, and also, the abbreviations of the sessions. The House will probably be ready to terminate the session by the middle of May.—Wash. correspondence of Balt. Sun.

The Episcopal Convention. RICHMOND, Oct. 15.—A resolution was submitted to-day to adjourn sine die on the 21st inst., but it was laid on the table. A large number of resolutions and reports were presented, but no final action of importance was taken.

It is rumored that the House of Bishops yesterday refused to rest, as Bishop Onderdonk. The vote is said to have stood 21 to 6, without discussion, but the report by many is believed to be unfounded.

LYNCH LAW.—An attempt was made on Saturday night last by some of our citizens, to ride on rail a man answering to the name and description of James Lynch—the same person who was represented in the Free Press as having been arrested in Harper's Ferry on suspicion of tampering with slaves. They had succeeded so far as to get the man on the rail, but for the timely interference of our Mayor were debarred from any further prosecution of their designs.—Shepherdstown (Va.) Register, 15th.

News of the Day.

"To show the very age and body of the times." The New York Express says:—"The Erie and New York Central roads are doing a large business, and have agreed to advance four five cents per bbl. The September business of the Erie road settles up well, and in spite of the Bergen strike, the month will nearly equal 1858."

Hon. Shepard Cary has raised this season on his farm in Houlton, Me., about 700 bushels of wheat and spring wheat, of the finest quality; 2,800 of oats; 2,000 of buckwheat; 3,500 of potatoes; 4,000 of turnips, besides other small crops, and keeps at his place stock to correspond.

The reports of the Western Railroads indicate favorably. It is stated that the Indianapolis and Cincinnati Company is having thirty carloads of corn per day, and will soon have demands for more rolling stock than it owns, as the crop along its line is enormous.

The capacity of the Great Eastern is 27,000 bales; hence this vessel, clearing once in each month, would, in 1859, have carried the whole cotton crop, but would now carry but one-fourth of it.

Milne Edwards has been making some experiments in feeding animals whose limbs he had broken, with phosphates of lime. Out of six rabbits and ten dogs, whose legs he broke in the same way, half were fed on food mixed with ground bones, and their bones united much more rapidly than those of the unphosphated animals. He thinks the use in human cases would be decidedly beneficial.

The St. Louis Democrat says that a lager beer is a drug in the St. Louis market this fall, as the unusual quantity manufactured last winter has left a stock on hand that cannot be exhausted by the regular demand.—To get rid of this, brewing must be deferred until it is sold, or it must be mixed with the new beer of this winter's brewing. The Democrat infers that there has been a reduction in the consumption of the article.

A new dodge has been introduced by Paris thieves. They resort to a trick of taking silver spoons and forks in the restaurants, and attaching them with sealing wax under the table. The operator then walks out, and soon after a confederate comes in, seats himself at the same table, and pockets the articles with impunity.

Sam'l Peters, foreman at the depot of the Richmond and Petersburg railroad, in Richmond, and L. H. Leonard, a speculator in old metal, were examined before the Mayor of Richmond last week, on the charge of defrauding the railroad company out of \$200 worth of brass and other metal.

The New York State Assessors have published their report, equalizing the valuation of the real estate of the several counties.—The State tax for the present year, including the school tax, will be a quarter of a cent on the dollar.

Captain John Poisel, aged 84 years, one of the oldest citizens of Martinsburg, Va., died on Friday last week. On the same day his daughter, Mr. Elizabeth Stephens, of Shepherdstown, died very suddenly.

Mr. Lewis Lepage, a native of France, and for 50 years a resident of Norfolk, died in that city last week, in the 87th year of his age.

Lady Franklin has spent all her fortune in the old palace at Florence and all the public buildings.

A new postoffice is established at the Agricultural College, Prince George's county, Md., and John O. Wharton appointed postmaster.

News from Washington.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15.—The plan to raise funds for the completion of the Washington national monument, through the medium of the postoffice, through the medium of the medium, has fair to prove successful. Several hundred postmasters have already notified Lieut. Ives, the engineer in charge, that they have placed boxes within their offices, for the reception of contributions, and it is believed that a very large proportion of the whole will co-operate in the project.

From some offices returns for the first month have already been received. The town of Lyon, Mass., stands at the head of the list, having contributed \$46; Wheeling, Va., sent \$18; Washington, \$17; Baltimore and Portsmouth, Va., \$15 each; New York, New Haven; Charleston, Petersburg, Va., Montgomery, Ala., \$10; New York, R. T. Smith, Ark., each about \$7; Newport, Fort Smith, Ark., Augusta, LaGrange and Macon, Ga., Frederickburg, Va., Hernando, Miss., and Tulip, Ark., from \$5 to \$8 each. Returns from about one hundred other towns range from \$5 down to 5 cents. If each community where there is a postoffice could every month contribute even the latter sum, a fund worth \$1,000,000 would be accumulated in less than a year.

The estimates are put on record, and at stated intervals the amounts received and the names of the places by which they were contributed are to be published in the principal papers of each State.

Whatever newspaper speculations may be indulged, it is concerning the San Juan Islands dispute, it is known that both governments are treating the subject in a spirit of calmness, and there is nothing to warrant the belief that the entire matter will not be amicably adjusted.

The latest foreign advices from distinguished sources, as well as what has transpired in Washington, strengthen the assertion concerning the present state of the question.

The democratic National Convention, which Judge Samuel L. Vermont is chairman, and Hon. Clement L. Vallandigham, of Ohio, and others, are secretaries, will early this week issue an official notice for the meeting of the committee on the 7th of December, in this city, to fix the time for the meeting of the Charleston Convention.

THE SLAVERY QUESTION.—They have a singular way of showing that they "regard the slavery agitation as at an end." What but "slavery agitation" furnishes the staples of all the speeches of democratic speakers—the editorials of democratic newspapers—the harangues of democratic crossroads leaders? Why have they nothing else to stir up the country. Without that the party would run in one moon. The leaders are now working it up into the most Southern best suited to alarm the fears of the South people, and make a unit in the next Presidential election. No bolder ever kneaded dough with half the persistence and they are displaying in getting "slavery agitation" in such a shape as to give them another rise. Nashville Union.

A CHURCH BRAWL.—There has been a tremendous uproar raging in London for two or three months owing to riotous demonstrations taking place every Sunday in a church, as "St. George's in the East." The reactor, it appears, has introduced drastic innovations in costume, manner of conducting the service, &c. The result was that the congregation booted him every Sunday, and the church wardens in vain protested against his doings. As a last resource he closed the church, the Bishop of London has closed the church for the present.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE NORTH BRITON.

Death of Hon. Mr. Mason, U. S. Minister at Paris.—The Peace Negotiations.—Italian Affairs.

FATHER POINT, Oct. 16.—The steamer North Briton, from Liverpool, with dates to the 5th inst., passed here at 3 o'clock this morning on her way to Quebec.

The steamer Europa arrived out on the 3d and the Anglo-Saxon on the 4th.

The news by this arrival is not very important.

Mr. Mason, the United States Minister at Paris, had died suddenly of apoplexy.

The steamer Great Eastern was to leave Portland for Holyhead on the 8th inst.

The latest accounts from Zurich say that all six of the Plenipotentiaries were present at the Conference on the 3d, at which the articles of the peace treaty were read over. The Paris Patrie says the treaty will be signed in a few days. It will confirm the cessation of Lombardy, and contain the settlement of the Lombard debt. Central Italian affairs will be settled by the proposed Congress.

It was reported at Paris that Austria had consented to reduce the Piedmontese portion of the Lombard debt from four hundred million francs to a little more than half of that sum.

The London Times has another sharp article on the San Juan affair. It rejoices at Gen. Scott's mission, and trusts that there will be a pacific solution. Says the Island belongs to England, and pitches into Gen. Harney generally as a filibuster, etc.

Especially, as the London builders' strike continues.

The transport ship Clara, with 400 soldiers and their wives and children, struck a rock in the Channel, but reached Portland in safety, though leaking badly.

The Times says that agents of the French, Austrian and Sardinian governments are soliciting tenders from English founders for a large quantity of rifled cannon.

FRANCE.—The Emperor Napoleon leaves Biarritz on the 10th inst., and stops two days at Bordeaux, where it is anticipated he will make a speech.

The French army of observation will winter in Italy.

The late rumor says that the preparations for a French expedition to China have been suspended, and that indications of backing down are apparent.

Marshall Hall's orders of the day on joining his troops were construed into an admission that the peace was not likely to last long.

The London Herald's Paris correspondent says that nothing was heard on every side but preparations for war, and he gives a similar picture of the state of affairs in Austria and Sardinia.

Mr. Mason died on the 3d.

General Changarnier had returned to Paris.

A letter from Paris says that the King of the Belgians' visit to Biarritz in relation to the Belgian debt to France was a perfect failure.

ITALY.—The Sardinian Government has sent a circular note to the representatives of the European Courts urging the formation of the kingdom of Upper Italy.

It was asserted that the Pope had ordered his passports to be given to the Sardinian Minister, for giving rise to a collision between the Swiss troops and the neutral stations at Catinara. It was stated that there was an insurrectionary movement at Palermo.

The Sardinian Standard has been hoisted on the old palace at Florence and all the public buildings.

The decrees of Tuscany and Bologna state that in future all public acts shall be headed "under the reign of His Majesty Victor Emmanuel."

Gen. Garibaldi had been enthusiastically received at Bologna.

The garrison of Ancona had been reinforced, and in the order of the day General Fanti promised that "the tricolor of Italy, preceded by the old corps of Savoy, will precede the troops of Central Italy in fresh battles, and forever free Italy from the stranger."

Gen. Garibaldi had summoned the Italians of the Legations to arms, and a collision was shortly expected.

COMMERCIAL.—LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—Sales of the last three days 28,000 bales, including 6,000 bales for export and 22,000 for home consumption. The market closed quiet but steady. Holders offer freely but show no disposition to sell. New Orleans Middling 6½, Uplands Middling 6½.

Manchester advices are unfavorable. There is but little inquiry, and prices are weak and partially have slightly declined.

LIVERPOOL BREAKFAST MARKET.—The market generally has a declining tendency. Flour was quiet at a decline of 6d to 1s per sack and barley was a declining tendency and prices are lower. Corn is quiet but steady—no quotations are given. Some authorities say breadstuffs close quiet—slow of sale, but prices unchanged.

LIVERPOOL PROVISION MARKET.—The market was a declining tendency. Beef close steady. Pork dull but prices steady. Bacon is quiet. Lard steady and in better demand—sales at 55s. 6d (6/5).

LONDON MARKETS.—Breadstuffs closed dull but prices steady. Corn is firm, with a considerable advance in floating cargoes. Sugar is heavy. Coffee dull. Tea is slow of sale, but prices unchanged. Rice firm.

There was a vague rumor of a strike among the ironworkers.

MONEY MARKET.—Consols 95½ for money and 95½ for account.

English Operettas.

The first entertainment of these artists at the Theatre Royal, Broadway, was brilliant. It was attended and completely successful. The pieces chosen are described as Parlor Operas, and we suppose that designation will answer, for the scenes are all domestic and in the locality of a room. The plots are such as include only two persons—Mr. and Mrs. Drayton. Considering how performed, the first operetta was very good; the second not remarkable, and obscure in its intentions. Imagine sprightly conversation, superior voices, pleasant music, good costumes, and artistic fluency, and you have the entire of the evening's work.

Telegraphic Dispatches.

St. Louis, Oct. 15.—Mr. Otter, the delegate to Congress from New Mexico, who arrived yesterday, has informed the Republican that a general impression prevails there that various Indian tribes on the Plains design making attacks on the settlements of New Mexico this winter. That the Comanches and Kiowas are joined for this purpose, is a well authenticated fact, and in order to prevent upon a sufficient number of troops should be sent there without any unnecessary delay.

Boston, Oct. 15.—At the horse show yesterday, the principal trot was between Columbus and the Montreal stallion Live Oak, of mile heats, for a purse of \$500. Columbus was the winner, making the first heat in 2 min. 54 sec.; the second 2 min. 36½ sec., and the third in 2 min. 40 seconds.

Kalamazoo, Mich., Oct. 15.—The great trotting match for a citizen's purse of \$2,000, came off here this afternoon at the National Horse Show course. Flora Temple won, making the best time on record, viz: 1st heat, 2:22; second heat, 2:22; third heat, 2:19½.

NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 14.—Very late reports from the interior portions of Western Texas represent the incursions of the Indians as very formidable and daring, in consequence of the withdrawal of the United States troops, concerning which fact they have now become fully aware, thus adding to their boldness and audacity. There was great alarm among the residents of the disturbed districts, but assistance, it was believed, would be shortly procured.

NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 16.—Letters have been received in this city from Hayti as late as the 1st inst. The trial of the persons engaged in the recent conspiracy had commenced at Port-au-Prince, and excited much attention. An immense number of troops had been ordered out to preserve order during the trial. The big African left Port-au-Prince, on the 20th, for New York, and the May Queen, on the 21st for Philadelphia.

NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 15.—Advices received here from Fort Worth report that his mission to Marshall, Texas, in connection with the affairs of the Pacific Railroad, has been completely successful, and that he is now on his way to New Orleans. He will probably reach the city to-morrow. Mr. Thompson, as was expected, has been elected President of the road to succeed Mr. Fulton.

NEW YORK, Oct. 15.—The Fowles, to have sailed to-day with the mails for Europe, but was withdrawn, and the mails forwarded by the City of Manchester via Cork.

Boston, Oct. 15.—Upon an application of the bank commissioners, the Supreme Court this day issued a temporary injunction against the People's Five Cent Savings Bank in the City of Boston, to prevent the withdrawal of the funds of the bank.

PORTLAND, ME., Oct. 15.—Frederick Cumberland, esq., agent of the Great Eastern, who has come to make arrangements for his reception, arrived here yesterday from Canada. He has no doubt that the steamer will leave for Portland, Me., in the latter part of October.

NEWARK, N. J., Oct. 15.—The trial of Patrick Maude for the murder of his sister, Mrs. Mary Turbutt, in the Fifth Ward of this city, on the evening of the 28th of May last, was concluded to-day, when the jury rendered a verdict of guilty of murder.

CHICAGO, Oct. 16.—A fire occurred at the corner of Main and Hennepin streets, Dixon, in this State, which destroyed twenty buildings, occupied by business firms. Loss \$50,000; insured for \$15,000.

CARLETON, Ont., Oct. 15.—A large new factory, belonging to the U. S. Larracks, at this place, was destroyed by fire last night, with fifteen horses and a quantity of feed.

St. Louis, Oct. 15.—The steamer Marcano was sunk on Friday, twenty miles below here. The steamer Brunette was burnt at Bloody Island, opposite this city, yesterday. Loss \$5,000.

NEW YORK, Oct. 16.—The steamer Star of the West has arrived from California. Her advice has been anticipated.

ALBANY, N. Y., Oct. 15.—Gov. Morgan having applied to the Supreme Court for an order to the dispersed jurisdiction over Oyster Island, between the States of New York and New Jersey, the Attorney General gives his opinion that the island clearly belongs to New York, and that New Jersey has no jurisdiction over the disputed territory.

Let those Laugh who Win.

There is no doubt of it, now Mr. Ward, our Minister to China, has got into Pekin! True, the peculiar mode and manner of his getting there were probably not such as a foreign ambassador might naturally have anticipated but Mr. Ward is a sensible man enough to know that, when in China it is best to do as the Chinamen do. What if the High Mandarins did place him in a huge box, all closed up, with only a hole in the top to let in enough of oxygen to keep him from suffocating? What if they did, subsequently place him, thus boxed up, upon a junk (Mississippi fashion), and tow him up to Pekin? What if they did lay him out, next, on a truck and draw him into a court-yard, with high walls all around it, so that he couldn't see anything but the sky overhead? We say, what of it all? It is only the fashion—or, if you please, the etiquette—of the country! All these were but several ways the Celestials have of showing respect to "distinguished strangers."

Instead of following the New York plan of presenting eminent foreigners with "the freedom of the city in a box," the Chinese prefer to place the man himself in the box. That is all. We have no doubt the Minister and his attendants were perfectly comfortable on the truck, on the raft, and in the box! And as little doubt have we, that long ere this they have had a talk with the Emperor, and procured the ratification of the Red treaty. The English and French journals, we say, speak of all this as an "indignity" to the Americans. What nonsense! These gentlemen cannot see the point of the joke. Doubtless, they feel a little chagrin that Jonathan should have got into the imperial city at all ahead of them, without fighting and without a fusillade, and so, as if to make up for this unhappy with themselves, they are trying to persuade us that our Brother of the Sun, Mr. Ward, intended to insult us, by putting our Minister in a box,—when, as we have shown, he only intended to honor us. Be that as it may, however, Jonathan is very apt to know when he is "insulted," or when any "indignity" is offered to him, without being informed of it by John Bull or Johnny Crapeau. Perhaps, therefore, it may not be an impertinence to suggest to our transatlantic friends the propriety of looking after their own "honor" in China, and in permitting us Americans to look after ours, in our own way.

New York Express.

ASTEROIDS NEAR MERCURY.—M. Leverrier, the discoverer of Neptune, has been engaged lately in studying aberrations of the planet Mercury. He finds that they must be due to the existence of small asteroids, and he calls on his brother astronomers to assist in discovering them. The total eclipse of the sun in July 1860, will afford an extraordinary favorable opportunity for this.

It is a very interesting and instructive, topography affords a means of recording, in whatever whatever phenomena may appear,

Political Speculations and Remarks.

The late local elections in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa and Minnesota, important and indicative as they may be regarded touching the momentous question of the next Presidency, are pretty conclusive upon three points. At all events, we draw from them the following important conclusions.

First.—That the democratic party of the North—States is in that melancholy condition of a sick man which affords no symptoms of convalescence.

Second.—That the late great American, or third party of the North, has disappeared, ceased to exist; and

Third.—That henceforward, to the close of the Presidential campaign of 1860, there will be only two parties in the North—the republican and the democratic—and that neither the one or the other of these two parties all the loose members of the North, with some trifling exceptions, will be absorbed.

Upon the first point, the melancholy prostration of the Northern democracy—very little is needed to explain the causes and character of the disease. It may be traced to that "death of disease," which the party contracted from that desperate Southern "Presidential experiment of Douglas and Pierce in 1854—the instantaneous and overwhelming Northern revolution which followed that result will explain the whole mystery. The violent and impracticable movements of the Southern pro-slavery democracy in the way of retaliation have only contributed fresh fuel to the fire from that day to this.

Under this terrible pressure from both sides, the democratic party in 1856 would have been crushed to atoms but for the saving interposition of Mr. Buchanan. It was a rescue from the very jaws of destruction, and a lesson which should have taught something of wisdom to the various factions and leaders of the party. But instead of this, they commenced the game of rule or ruin with the new administration from the day it came into power; and so, while on account of these faithless and rebellious leaders and cliques, the democracy of the North have been broken and trampled down, from the lakes of Maine to the lakes of Minnesota, the democracy of the South have been degraded to a mere sectional faction upon the "one idea" of slavery.

Our second consideration—the disappearance of the late great third party of the North—only darkens still more this otherwise sufficiently gloomy prospect to the demoralized democracy. The materials of this late third party, upon the broad, general and practical issues of the federal government, are the natural allies of the republicans. It is only upon Seward's "irrepressible conflict" with the democracy of the North, and upon this side as a separate opposition camp. But now, as the republicans appear to be disposed to repudiate the extreme anti-slavery platform of Seward, and as the American party has died a natural death, the bulk of the loose materials of the latter will be absorbed by the former; for such are the manifestations of these October elections.

Thus, with the people of the North divided between two parties in 1860, instead of three, as in 1856, we may say, from the Northern elections of the late and present year, that in every respect the present year, that the democracy of the North are prostrated and broken up by one sectional party, while the democracy of the South are themselves reduced to a mere sectional camp. Between these two sectional parties there yet remains, however, a conservative opposition Southern party, and it will prove, we hope, a lucky accident which at this crisis has given this conservative party the balance of power in the new